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true, that all the astronomers here were entirely ready to do their best to carry out any plans which the Regents should adopt.

If those interested in this matter will take note of these facts in connection with what has already been printed, nothing but good can come from this discussion. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY, March 18, 1895.

A LARGE REFLECTOR FOR THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, F. R. A. S., of Halifax, England, proposes to present to the LICK Observatory the 3-foot reflecting telescope and its dome which now form part of his private observatory. The grateful thanks of the LICK Observatory are offered to him for this most generous and highly appreciated gift. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MOUNT HAMILTON, April 4, 1895.

A LARGE REFLECTOR FOR THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The Director of the LICK Observatory yesterday received a telegram which announces that EDWARD CROSSLEY, Esq., lately Member of Parliament for Halifax, England, proposes to present to the LICK Observatory his great 3-foot reflecting telescope, with its dome and all its apparatus complete. Mr. CROSSLEY makes no conditions to his gift, except that his telescope when set up at Mount Hamilton shall be called the CROSSLEY Reflector, and that the expenses of transporting the instrument and dome from England to California shall be borne by Americans. The splendid instrument which Mr. CROSSLEY offers is well known to astronomers. It was constructed by Mr. A. A. COMMON, of London, and for the magnificent photographs made with it Mr. COMMON received the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society. It was then purchased by Mr. CROSSLEY, and set up in his private observatory at Halifax, England, along with other instruments. An experience of some years has shown Mr. CROSSLEY and his astronomer, Mr. GLEDHILL, that the climate of England is not good enough to do justice to this telescope, and he therefore determined to present it to an observatory which was favorably situated, where it could be used to the fullest advantage. It is a great compliment to the LICK Observatory that Mr. CROSSLEY has selected it to receive his gift, and it is a practical recognition of the fact that California is the ideal climate for making astronomical observations, as has been fully shown by the experience of the past seven years. The addition of this great reflector to the equipment of the LICK Observatory, which already possesses the great 3-foot refractor, makes the instrumental outfit of Mount Hamilton decidedly superior to that of any observatory now existing.

The refractor is eminently suitable for certain kinds of work. There are other kinds in which the reflector possesses distinct advantages. As the LICK Observatory will soon have a great telescope of each kind established in a most favorable situation, it will be admirably fitted in the future for every kind of astronomical work. It may be mentioned that the original plan of the LICK Observatory contemplated the installation of a great reflector as well as a great refractor. It was found by the LICK Trustees that the funds left by Mr. LICK were not adequate to provide both these instruments, and the plan for making the reflector was reluctantly abandoned. The splendid gift of Mr. CROSSLEY comes to complete the equipment of the Observatory in the most satisfactory manner. The cost of dismounting the reflector and dome in England, of transporting them to California (only the more important parts of the framework of the dome will be required here), and of erecting the complete apparatus at Mount Hamilton must be raised by subscription in America before Mr. CROSSLEY'S generous offer can be definitely accepted.*
— San Jose *Mercury*, April 5, 1895.

SEPARATION OF HELIUM FROM A TERRESTRIAL SUBSTANCE.

LONDON, March 31.—The detection of the gas *argon* in the atmosphere is being followed by a rapid series of discoveries of great interest. Chemists have long known, theoretically, of the existence of another element, which has been called "*helium*," and which was revealed by the spectroscope in the Sun's rays. It was not known to exist in this planet.

Professor RAMSAY, a few days ago, in order to ascertain whether there was something in the world with which argon would keep company, was examining the extremely rare earth

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*Subscriptions to the fund for this purpose may be sent to the Director of the LICK Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, U. S. A. They will be gratefully received and suitably acknowledged.